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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/535,458	06/15/2006	Karen McLachlan	037003-0316138	1633
53644 7590 09/15/2008 STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX, P.L.L.C. 1100 NEW YORK AVE., N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005				
EXAMINER HARRIS, ALANA M				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1643				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
09/15/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/535,458

Applicant(s)

MCLACHLAN ET AL.

Examiner

Alana M. Harris, Ph.D.

Art Unit

1643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 and 28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 and 28 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SI/309)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Groups I and II, claim(s) 1 and 2, drawn to an isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence, a nucleotide sequence that is at least 90% identical to said sequence, a fragment of said nucleotide sequence, a fragment of said nucleotide, wherein the nucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO: 67 or SEQ ID NO: 69, respectively.

Groups III and IV, claim(s) 3, drawn to a primer mixture comprising primers that result in the amplification of SEQ ID NO: 67 or SEQ ID NO: 69, respectively.

Groups V and VI, claim(s) 4-6, drawn to an antigen encoded by SEQ ID NO: 67 or SEQ ID NO: 69, respectively.

Groups VII and VIII, claim(s) 7-15, drawn to a monoclonal antibody that binds to a cancer antigen identified as SEQ ID NO: 68 or SEQ ID NO: 70, respectively.

Groups IX and X, claim(s) 16-18, drawn to a diagnostic kit comprising an isolated nucleic acid, SEQ ID NO: 67 or SEQ ID NO: 69, respectively.

Groups XI and XII, claim(s) 19-24, drawn to a method of detecting cancer comprising determining cancer gene expression of SEQ ID NO: 67 or SEQ ID NO: 69, respectively.

Groups XIII and XIV, claim(s) 28, drawn to a method for treating cancer comprising administering a cancer antigen encoded by nucleic acid, SEQ ID NO: 67 or SEQ ID NO: 69, respectively.

The inventions listed as Groups I-XIV do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the special technical feature is an isolated nucleic acid, SEQ ID NO: 67, fragments thereof and variant molecules at least 90% identical to said sequence. U.S. Patent number 6,979,577 (filed March 12, 2002) discloses a fragment of nucleotide sequence, SEQ ID NO: 67 that is at

least 20 nucleotides in length, see sequence alignment below. Therefore, the technical feature recited in claim 1 is not special. Accordingly, the groups are not so linked as to form a single general concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

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RESULT 1
US-10-094-749-2
; Sequence 2, Application US/10094749
; Patent No. 6979557
; GENERAL INFORMATION:
; APPLICANT: ISOGAI, TAKAO
; APPLICANT: SUGIYAMA, TOMOYASU
; APPLICANT: OTSUKI, TETSUJI
; APPLICANT: WAKAMATSU, AI
; APPLICANT: SATO, HIROYUKI
; APPLICANT: ISHII, SHIZUKO
; APPLICANT: YAMAMOTO, JUN-ICHI
; APPLICANT: ISONO, YUUKO
; APPLICANT: HIO, YURI
; APPLICANT: OTSUKA, KAORU
; APPLICANT: NAGAI, KEIICHI
; APPLICANT: IRIE, RYOTARO
; APPLICANT: TAMECHIKA, ICHIRO
; APPLICANT: SEKI, NAOHIKO
; APPLICANT: YOSHIKAWA, TSUTOMU
; APPLICANT: OTSUKA, MOTOMYUKI
; APPLICANT: NAGAHARI, KENJI
; APPLICANT: MASUHO, YASUHIKO
; TITLE OF INVENTION: NOVEL FULL-LENGTH cDNA
; FILE REFERENCE: 084335/0160
; CURRENT APPLICATION NUMBER: US/10/094,749
; CURRENT FILING DATE: 2002-03-12
; PRIOR APPLICATION NUMBER: 60/350,435
; PRIOR FILING DATE: 2002-01-24
; PRIOR APPLICATION NUMBER: JP 2001-328381
; PRIOR FILING DATE: 2001-09-14
; NUMBER OF SEQ ID NOS: 3381
; SOFTWARE: PatentIn Ver. 2.1
; SEQ ID NO 2
; LENGTH: 2370
; TYPE: DNA
; ORGANISM: Homo sapiens
US-10-094-749-2

Query Match      82.2%; Score 2238.2; DB 4; Length 2370;
Best Local Similarity 95.2%; Pred. No. 0;
Matches 2367; Conservative 0; Mismatches 3; Indels 117; Gaps 1;

Qy      234  ATCGAGCGCAGGGCGATGGGTGGGCGCGCGGGCGCCGGGCGCCAGGCGAGTGATGGGCTTC 233
      |||
Db      1  ATCGAGCGCAGGGCGATGGGTGGGCGCGCGGGCGCCGGGCGCCAGGCGAGTGATGGGCTTC 60

Qy      294  CGCGCTGCGGCCCCCACTGAGGAGGAGGCTCGGGGACAGCAGGAGCACGGGCTGCCCGCG 353
      |||
Db      61  CGCGCTGCGGCCCCCACTGAGGAGGAGGCTCGGGGACAGCAGGAGCACGGGCTGCCCGCG 120

Qy      354  CGGTGCGGACCATGCGCTTCTTGGCGGGGCGCGGCTGCTGGACTGGGCGAGCTCGCGGC 413
      |||
Db      121 CGGTGCGGACCATGCGCTTCTTGGCGGGGCGCGGCTGCTGGACTGGGCGAGCTCGCGGC 180

Qy      414  CGCACTCGAGTTCAAATAAGTTCGTGCTGACCGGGTACCGGCGCGCGCAGCAGCGGCTCGG 473
      |||
Db      181 CGCACTCGAGTTCAAATAAGTTCGTGCTGACCGGGTACCGGCGCGCGCAGCAGCGGCTCGG 240
```

QY	474	CTGTGCTGGCGAGCCTCTTCTACCTGCAACAGGAACATGGGCACACATCTACACGCACGGGC	533
Db	241	GCTGCGCTGGCGAGCCTCTTCTACCTGCAACAGGAACATGGGCACACATCTACACGCAC----	296
QY	534	TGGCCCTGCTGGGCTTCCTGTGTCTGTGTGCATGACCATGCCCTGGGTCAGCTGGCA	593
Db	297	-----	296
QY	594	AGGATGCTGTGGCTGGGAGGCACACATTGCGTGGCCTGCCCTTGACCCCTGCAGGCTCCG	653
Db	297	-----GGCTCCG	303
QY	654	TGCTCTATCACTCTTTATGTGCCACAAGGGGGCAGCGTGTGTACGCCCGGCTCCTCG	713
Db	304	TGCTCTATCACTCTTTATGTGCCACAAGGGGGCAGCGTGTGTACGCCCGGCTCCTCG	363
QY	714	CCCTGGACATGTGTGGGGTCTGCCTTGTCAACACCCCTTGGGGCCTGCCATCATCCACT	773
Db	364	CCCTGGACATGTGTGGGGTCTGCCTTGTCAACACCCCTTGGGGCCTGCCATCATCCACT	423
QY	774	GCACCTTGGCCTGCAGGCCCTGGCTGCGCGCGGCTGCCCTGGTGGGTACACTGTGTGT	833
Db	424	GCACCTTGGCCTGCAGGCCCTGGCTGCGCGCGGCTGCCCTGGTGGGTACACTGTGTGT	483
QY	834	CGSGTGTGGCGGCTGGCGTCTCTCACCGCCCCCTCCACCAAGTCTCGGCTCCGGGCAT	893
Db	484	CGSGTGTGGCGGCTGGCGTCTCTCACCGCCCCCTCCACCAAGTCTCGGCTCCGGGCAT	543
QY	894	TTGGATGTGGCGGCTGGCGCGCTACTGTGTTATTTGGGCGCCGGGAGTGGCTTGGGTT	953
Db	544	TTGGATGTGGCGGCTGGCGCGCTACTGTGTTATTTGGGCGCCGGGAGTGGCTTGGGTT	603
QY	954	CAGGGGCTCCAGGCTCCCTGCGCTGTACTTGGCGATGAGCGACTTGGCGTCTTGGGG	1013
Db	604	CAGGGGCTCCAGGCTCCCTGCGCTGTACTTGGCGATGAGCGACTTGGCGTCTTGGGG	663
QY	1014	GACTGTGTAATGTAGCCGCTCTGCCGAGCGCTGGGAGCTTGGCCGCTTTGACTACTGGG	1073
Db	664	GACTGTGTAATGTAGCCGCTCTGCCGAGCGCTGGGAGCTTGGCCGCTTTGACTACTGGG	723
QY	1074	GCAACTCCACCAGATCATGCACCTGCTGAGCGTGGGCTCCATCCTGCAGCTGCACGCCG	1133
Db	724	GCAACTCCACCAGATCATGCACCTGCTGAGCGTGGGCTCCATCCTGCAGCTGCACGCCG	783
QY	1134	GGTGTGTGCCGAGCTGCTCTGGGCTGCCACCAACGCTGTGCCCGGAGCTGAGCTGCCA	1193
Db	784	GGTGTGTGCCGAGCTGCTCTGGGCTGCCACCAACGCTGTGCCCGGAGCTGAGCTGCCA	843
QY	1194	TGCCAGCTTGCCACAGAGCCTCTTAGAGTTAGCAACACAGGTGTTCTTCCCAACTCG	1253
Db	844	TGCCAGCTTGCCACAGAGCCTCTTAGAGTTAGCAACACAGGTGTTCTTCCCAACTCG	903
QY	1254	TCTGCAAGGGGCTGGCTCCTTGGATGCTTCCAGCTCATGAGATGTCTCAGCAGGAGCCCT	1313
Db	904	TCTGCAAGGGGCTGGCTCCTTGGATGCTTCCAGCTCATGAGATGTCTCAGCAGGAGCCCT	963
QY	1314	GTTCCACCGCTTCTTCCCTGTGAGCTGACCTCTTCCACCCACGCGTGGCGCTCCAACCTC	1373
Db	964	GTTCCACCGCTTCTTCCCTGTGAGCTGACCTCTTCCACCCACGCGTGGCGCTCCAACCTC	1023
QY	1374	CTTCCCTGCTTTTCCCTCCAAGCTCCTATTATTACTGTGTGAGCTGGAAGAAACCTTTC	1433
Db	1024	CTTCCCTGCTTTTCCCTCCAAGCTCCTATTATTACTGTGTGAGCTGGAAGAAACCTTTC	1083
QY	1434	CCTCTTGGGAGCTCTTTACCTCTGTGAGCTGTGGGGTTAGACACAGAGGAGACTTGGG	1493

Db	1084	CCTCTTGGGACCTCTTTACCCCTCTGTGACCTGTGGGTTAGACCCAGAGAGGGACTCTGGG	1143
Qy	1494	GTCAGCTCTTGTCTGTGAGAGTTCAAGTCTCCGACGGCCGCGAGCCAGAGCCCTCTCACC	1553
Db	1144	GTCATGTCTTGTCTGTGAGAGTTCAAGTCTCCGCGCCGCGACGCCAGAGCCCTCTCACC	1203
Qy	1554	CTATCCTGTCTCTCCACACAGGCGCTGTGGCCAGTCTTCTGTATCTCCATCTTTCTGGCCT	1613
Db	1204	CTATCCTGTCTCTCCACACAGGCGCTGTGGCCAGTCTTCTGTATCTCCATCTTTCTGGCCT	1263
Qy	1614	GCATACCAGCCCTCCACAGCAGCCCAAAGCTTGCCGCGCCTGGCTCCCTCTGCCACAGAGAC	1673
Db	1264	GCATACCAGCCCTCCACAGCAGCCCAAAGCTTGCCGCGCCTGGCTCCCTCTGCCACAGAGAC	1323
Qy	1674	TATGGAGTAAGGCATTTCAGGACAAAGAGACCAAGGGGCGTGGACCCGCTCTGTACCAGC	1733
Db	1324	TATGGAGTAAGGCATTTCAGGACAAAGAGACCAAGGGGCGTGGACCCGCTCTGTACCAGC	1383
Qy	1734	TGGCCACAGGCCAAGGGCTGCAGCTGCTTCTTCCAGGAACTGACACAGGAGCTCAGC	1793
Db	1384	TGGCCACAGGCCAAGGGCTGCAGCTGCTTCTTCCAGGAACTGACACAGGAGCTCAGC	1443
Qy	1794	GGCCTCAGATCCTGGGACCCCTGGGCGGTGCTGCGCTCCACCTTGAGTGGCATCTCC	1853
Db	1444	GGCCTCAGATCCTGGGACCCCTGGGCGGTGCTGCGCTCCACCTTGAGTGGCATCTCC	1503
Qy	1854	AACAGCTCCAGGTACCCACCGGGGGATGTGCTGCTCAGGAAACCTCTTGTCCACACA	1913
Db	1504	AACAGCTCCAGGTACCCACCGGGGGATGTGCTGCTCAGGAAACCTCTTGTCCACACA	1563
Qy	1914	GCATGGGGCTTCAGCTGCTGGGCCAAGGCCAGGAGCGCTGGGTTCTGCACAGGGCTCAG	1973
Db	1564	GCATGGGGCTTCAGCTGCTGGGCCAAGGCCAGGAGCGCTGGGTTCTGCACAGGGCTCAG	1623
Qy	1974	CCTCAGGGGCGTTAAGACCCCTGGATGACATCAATAAAGGGACAGGAAGGCCCATGTTGCC	2033
Db	1624	CCTCAGGGGCGTTAAGACCCCTGGATGACATCAATAAAGGGACAGGAAGGCCCATGTTGCC	1683
Qy	2034	ACATGAGCAGGCTTGGGTGCTCCCAAGGTTCAAATACTTTTTATTAGACACGGCCAGGCA	2093
Db	1684	ACATGAGCAGGCTTGGGTGCTCCCAAGGTTCAAATACTTTTTATTAGACACGGCCAGGCA	1743
Qy	2094	GAGAAAGCATGGGAGTTTCCGAGGGGCCCGAGCTTTCAGGGGCGACGGGAGAGACACAG	2153
Db	1744	GAGAAAGCATGGGAGTTTCCGAGGGGCCCGAGCTTTCAGGGGCGACGGGAGAGACACAG	1803
Qy	2154	GATAAAAGGTTAAAGTGCAGAGGCGAGAGTCTGGGGCTCAGGTTGGTCTAGGGGTGTCCT	2213
Db	1804	GATAAAAGGTTAAAGTGCAGAGGCGAGAGTCTGGGGCTCAGGTTGGTCTAGGGGTGTCCT	1863
Qy	2214	CAACAGGCTGAGGAGGTTCCGAGGCTCAAAAGGAGGGGAGGAGCCCCGAGGAGGCTCTG	2273
Db	1864	CAACAGGCTGAGGAGGTTCCGAGGCTCAAAAGGAGGGGAGGAGCCCCGAGGAGGCTCTG	1923
Qy	2274	AGTTGATGTCACTTAGSTCCAGGGCATCCTGGAGGAGAGAGTAGTGACACTCAGGATC	2333
Db	1924	AGTTGATGTCACTTAGSTCCAGGGCATCCTGGAGGAGAGAGTAGTGACACTCAGGATC	1983
Qy	2334	CAAAAGCTAGCCCTGGCCACCCAGCCCTGGAGCTGTTACCTGGGTGTGACACTGCTC	2393
Db	1984	CAAAAGCTAGCCCTGGCCACCCAGCCCTGGAGCTGTTACCTGGGTGTGACACTGCTC	2043
Qy	2394	CGGGGGGTGGAGTGCTCTCCACAGTCCGGGCCAGGACAGCCTCAGGGGAGAGTGAAGGC	2453
Db	2044	CGGGGGGTGGAGTGCTCTCCACAGTCCGGGCCAGGACAGCCTCAGGGGAGAGTGAAGGC	2103
Qy	2454	CTGCAGGAGGCGAGCGAGACAAAGGAGGTGTCCAGGGCTAGGGAGTGTCCGGATGAACC	2513

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Db      2104  |||||
CTGCAGGAGGGCAGGCGAGACAAAGGAGGGTGTCCAGGGCTAGGGAGTGCOCGGATGAAACC 2163

Qy      2514  AGCTCTGTCCCTGTGCAGGCTCCAGGCTCCCGGCTGACAAACAGGCAGGGAGCCACAGTC 2573
|||||

Db      2164  AGCTCTGTCCCTGTGCAGGCTCCAGGCTCCCGGCTGACAAACAGGCAGGGAGCCACAGTC 2223
|||||

Qy      2574  AGGGACAATAAAAACTTGGTGCACTCTGAAAGCAGCACTTGGACAGCCTTCAAAGTCCTT 2633
|||||

Db      2224  AGGGACAATAAAAACTTGGTGCACTCTGAAAGCAGCACTTGGACAGCCTTCAAAGTCCTT 2283
|||||

Qy      2634  CCATCTGGCTGCACCTCCAAAGGCCCCCTCTGTCCCTTTTCAGAACACATGGACTTGGAGGCA 2693
|||||

Db      2284  CCATCTGGCTGCACCTCCAAAGGCCCCCTCTGTCCCTTTTCAGAACACATGGACTTGGAGGCA 2343
|||||

Qy      2694  GATTTGAAATAAACTTTTAGTAAATGT 2720
|||||

Db      2344  GATTTGAAATAAACTTTTAGTAAATGT 2370
|||||
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2. This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species in claim 28 are as follows:

- a. ribozyme; and
- b. antisense oligonucleotide.

Hence, with the election of any of the Groups cited as Inventions XIII or XIV Applicants must elect a species.

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include

all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner:

The species are required in the claimed method of treating cancer.

The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the two different molecules are patentably distinct and differ in composition, structure and modes of activity.

3. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

4. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

5. The Examiner has required restriction between product and process claims.

Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and the product claims are subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be considered for rejoinder. All claims directed to a nonelected process invention must require all the limitations of an allowable product claim for that process invention to be rejoined.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103 and 112. Until all claims to the elected product are found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowable product claim will not be rejoined. See MPEP § 821.04(b). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution to require the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.** Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Alana M. Harris, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571)272-0831. The Examiner works a flexible schedule, however she can normally be reached between the hours of 7:30 am to 6:30 pm, with alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Larry R. Helms, Ph.D. can be reached on (571) 272-0832. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Alana M. Harris, Ph.D.
08 September 2008
/Alana M. Harris, Ph.D./
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1643